


“must explain”. In the present application, the Examiner has already performed a search on the subject matter of all pending claims and has already examined all the claims on the merits. Only claims 6 and 7 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, there would be no additional burden on the Examiner to examining all the claims together.

Second, it is respectfully submitted that at least the Species I and II are not separate species. Further, the subject matter of all claims 1-14 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter for any one alleged species would necessarily encompass a search or the subject matter of the remaining species. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the total number of species is not an unreasonable number of species to examine. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. Again, Applicants respectfully note that the search and examination of this entire application have already been performed. M.P.E.P. § 803 clearly states that “if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes two distinct or independent inventions.” It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the preset application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons as those set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the election of species requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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